AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Applicants amend the specification as follows:

Replace the paragraph immediately below "REFERENCE TO A SEQUENCE LISTING" with the following:

The instant application contains a Sequence Listing which has been submitted in ASCII format via EFS-Web and is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety. Said ASCII copy, created on October 7, 2011, is named 47259500.txt and is 29,297 bytes in size.

Replace page 1, line 16 to page 2, line 4 with the following:

E. coli OmpT protease (SEQ ID NO: 41) is present in *E. coli* outer membrane fractions, and this protease selectively cleaves primarily peptide bonds between basic amino acid pairs. Proteins having homologous amino acid sequences with *E. coli* OmpT protease and having or believed to have protease activity are also found in intestinal bacteria such as *Salmonella*, *Yersinia* and *Shigella*, and this group of proteins is known as the omptin family.

E. coli OmpT protease (SEQ ID NO: 41) has a molecular weight of approximately 33,500. Sugimura et al. have examined the substrate specificity of OmpT protease (SEQ ID NO: 41) and have reported that the enzyme specifically cleaves the central peptide bonds between the basic amino acid pairs of arginine-arginine, lysine-lysine, arginine-lysine and lysine-arginine (Sugimura, K. and Nishihara, T. J. Bacteriol. 170: 5625-5632, 1988).

Replace page 7, line 34 to page 8, line 4 with the following:

According to the invention, "OmpT protease" refers to mature OmpT protease from *E. coli* (SEQ ID NO: 41) after removal of the signal peptide, or a protein other than OmpT protease having OmpT protease activity (OmpT-like protease). As OmpT-like proteases there may be mentioned (1) *Yersinia pestis* plasminogen activator, (2) *Salmonella typhimurium* E protein, (3) *Escherichia coli* and (4) *Shigella flexneri* SopA.

Replace page 24, line 35 to page 25, line 9 with the following:

The protected protein of this fusion protein is composed of β-gal117S4H containing the 117 N-terminal amino acids of *E. coli* β-galactosidase as the protecting protein, a linker sequence comprising 26 amino acids containing an arginine-arginine sequence, and GLP-1(7-37). The present inventors had already discovered that *E. coli* OmpT protease (SEQ ID NO: 41) cleaves the central peptide bond of the arginine-arginine sequence in the PRR linker sequence, releasing a target polypeptide of 44 amino acids containing GLP-1(7-37) (Okuno, K. et al. Biosci., Biotechnol. Biochem. 66:127-134, 2002).